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Serial No. 10/788,487

Docket No.: 1614.1389

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transmission apparatus used for forming a network that supports a bidirectional ring switching capability, the transmission apparatus comprising:
a detecting part ~~for detecting a ring switching request from a received signal;~~ including identifiers of transmission apparatuses between which a failure occurs;
an obtaining part ~~for obtaining an identifier of a transmission apparatus included in from~~ the ring switching request, and ~~obtaining~~ concatenation setting information, corresponding to the identifier, from a concatenation setting information table that includes concatenation setting information for each identifier of transmission apparatuses forming the network; and
a setting part ~~for making a~~ concatenation setting for a protection line according to the concatenation setting information.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~further the obtaining part comprising;~~
a storing part ~~for storing the concatenation setting information table, pieces of concatenation setting information of transmission apparatuses on the network in association with identifiers of the transmission apparatuses;~~
~~wherein the obtaining part obtains the concatenation setting information from the storing part.~~
3. (ORIGINAL) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the obtaining part obtains the concatenation setting information from information received from another transmission apparatus.

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4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 2, the transmission apparatus further comprising:

a detecting part ~~for detecting a~~ concatenation setting in the transmission apparatus; and
a sending part ~~for adding the own-respective~~ identifier of the transmission apparatus to concatenation setting information corresponding to the concatenation setting and sending the concatenation setting information with the ~~own-respective~~ identifier to another transmission apparatus.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein, when the ~~own-respective~~ identifier is changed, the sending part adds the changed identifier to the concatenation setting information and sends the concatenation setting information with the changed identifier to another transmission apparatus.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 4, the transmission apparatus further comprising:

a part ~~for adding the own-respective~~ identifier to first pieces of concatenation setting information stored in the storing part and sending the first pieces of concatenation setting information with the ~~own-respective~~ identifier to another transmission apparatus in response to receiving a predetermined command; and

a part ~~for receiving~~ second pieces of concatenation setting information from another transmission apparatus, writing ~~own-respective~~ concatenation setting information into the received second pieces of concatenation setting information, and sending the second pieces of concatenation setting information to another transmission apparatus.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A concatenation setting method in a transmission apparatus used for forming a network that supports a bidirectional ring switching capability, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a ring switching request from a received signal, including identifiers of transmission apparatuses between which a failure occurs;

obtaining an identifier ~~of a transmission apparatus included in~~ from the ring switching request, and ~~obtaining~~ concatenation setting information, corresponding to the identifier, from a concatenation setting information table that includes concatenation setting information for each identifier of transmission apparatuses forming the network; and

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making a concatenation setting for a protection line according to the concatenation setting information.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the transmission apparatus comprises a storing part ~~for storing pieces of the~~ concatenation setting information ~~table of transmission apparatuses on the network in association with identifiers of the~~ transmission apparatuses;

~~wherein the transmission apparatus obtains the concatenation setting information from the storing part.~~

9. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the transmission apparatus obtains the concatenation setting information from information received from another transmission apparatus.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 8, the method further comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

detecting a concatenation setting in the transmission apparatus; and
adding the ~~own-respective~~ identifier of the transmission apparatus to concatenation setting information corresponding to the concatenation setting and sending the concatenation setting information with the ~~own-respective~~ identifier to another transmission apparatus.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, when the ~~own-respective~~ identifier is changed, the transmission apparatus adds the changed identifier to the concatenation setting information and sends the concatenation setting information with the changed identifier to another transmission apparatus.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

adding the ~~own-respective~~ identifier to first pieces of concatenation setting information stored in the storing part and sending the first pieces of concatenation setting information with the ~~own-respective~~ identifier to another transmission apparatus in response to receiving a predetermined command; and

receiving second pieces of concatenation setting information from another transmission apparatus, writing ~~own-respective~~ concatenation setting information into the received second

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pieces of concatenation setting information, and sending the second pieces of concatenation setting information to another transmission apparatus.